

Application Serial No. 10/072747
Examiner: N.S. Fayyaz
Art Unit: 2856

PATENT
M&G No.: 13835.0009US01

Remarks

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28. Accordingly, claim 28 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The dependency of claim 29 has respectively been revised to depend upon claim 1. Allowable claims 31-33 have been written in independent form including limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-33 have been examined. Claims 4, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 25-33 were considered allowable. Claims 34-55 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-27 and 29-55 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robins (GB 2254696) in view of Warburton (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,523). The rejection is rendered moot, as claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims therefrom are patentable over the references cited.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robins (GB 2254696) in view of Warburton (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,523) as applied to claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 12-14 and further in view of Shen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,200,443). The rejection of these claims is rendered moot, as claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 6-8, 10, 11, 17, 18 and 21-24 are patentable over the references cited.

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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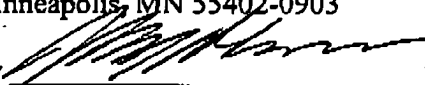
With the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that the claims pending in this patent application are in a condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. If any further questions arise, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the number listed below.



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Respectfully Submitted,

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